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REPUBLICAN OPINIONS

TARIFF TRUSTS

REPUBLICAN OPINIONS ON TARIFF TRUSTS.

Compiled by the NEW ENGLAND FREE TRADE LEAGUE.

The twenty-third in a series of letters issued by the New England Free Trade League.

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Governor Mount, of Indiana, December, 1899, speaking to the Indiana hotel-keepers :—

“I emphatically favor removing all tariff protection from every industry that belongs to a combination formed in restraint of trade.”

Chicago *Times-Herald*, March, 1899 :—

“Most certainly it should be the duty of Congress, in both branches of which the Republicans have a majority, to abolish or suspend the protective duty on the products of any industry which has been organized into a trust, and which has arbitrarily raised the prices of such products.”

Hon. John Sherman, in United States Senate, October 15, 1888 :—

“Whenever this free competition is evaded or avoided by combination of individuals or corporations, the duty should be reduced and foreign competition promptly invited.”

St. Paul *Pioneer-Press*, April, 1900 :—

“The whole list of protected monopolies ought to be brought within the purview of a tariff reform which would enable foreign competition to put a limit on their ability to raise prices.”

Ex-Senator Washburn, of Minnesota, said in an interview in the New York *Tribune* of September 11, 1899 :—

“The Republican party, whether justly or unjustly, is associated with trusts in the minds of the masses. As a party, we have

reached a crisis where we have got to call a halt. The Republican party has got to disconnect itself from trusts. It has got to do something more than adopt platform planks against trusts. . . .

"It seems to me, after giving the matter a great deal of thought, that the Republicans in Congress will have to examine the subject thoroughly; and, whenever they find a trust is depending for its exorbitant profits largely on protective duties, it will be the duty of Republican Congressmen and Senators to remove the duties at once. We cannot stop short of that. The duties must be repealed when it is shown that the trusts are benefiting by them. This should be done with the duty on steel rails and on tin plate."

Minneapolis Journal, October 2, 1899:—

"The Senator is so eminently correct in his position that tariff duties which enable trusts or any other kind of monopolies to raise prices above the point at which they could otherwise be maintained should be lowered in the public interest, that we must range ourselves beside him on that proposition."

New York Commercial Advertiser, in the fall of 1899:—

"The time will soon come when public opinion will no more tolerate protective duties on trust products; for protection should logically promote home competition, while trust organization destroys it."

Portland Oregonian, March, 1900:—

"Because the paper trust has put up the price of printing paper to unconscionable figure, Representative DeVries, of California, has introduced a bill to repeal the duty on printing paper and the material of which it is made. It is very well; but there are about forty more big trusts that have helped through protective tariff, and should be dealt with in the same way."

Senator Plumb, of Kansas, opposing the McKinley Tariff, August 26, 1891:—

"There are dozens of lines of manufactures covered by the terms of this bill which are controlled by trusts. . . . I do not know of any better way to start in at least to reduce the exactions of trusts than to cut down the shelter behind which trusts are created."



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Philadelphia *Ledger*, February, 1899:—

“What is imperatively required is a revision of the tariff such as will modify the rates, or, better still, place upon the free list all foreign goods, whether raw material or finished product, that are the subject of domestic monopoly.”

The Republican Club of Harvard University on Wednesday, May 16, 1900, adopted a platform approving various measures, among them the following:—

“Publicity of the affairs of trusts and removal of all duty on commodities controlled by trusts.”

Rockford *Republic* (Ill.), January 29, 1900:—

“At a meeting a few days ago at Denver the Colorado Editorial Association adopted resolutions demanding the repeal of the tariff on wood pulp and all other materials entering into the manufacture of print paper. . . . There are many other trusts intrenched securely behind tariff duties, which shut out foreign competition and enable American monopolists to rob consumers. . . . There should be a sweeping repeal of protection, which is made the opportunity for such merciless exactions as the print paper trust has laid on the newspapers of the United States.”

Hartford *Courant*, December, 1899:—

This paper declared that the President should have closed his trust discussion in his message “with a straight-from-the-shoulder recommendation for the immediate repeal of any and every protective customs duty behind which a price-raising monopoly is squatted.”

Dubuque *Times* (Ia.), January 20, 1900:—

“The paper trust is making hay while the sun shines. . . . The simple remedy lies in the repeal of the tariff used to suppress competition and to rob the publishers, and through them the public. Congress should lose no time in wiping it off the statute books, and should not stop until every other duty which operates to suppress competition or enhance the value of the bounties of nature in private hands is repealed.”

